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**For Immediate Release**  
**04/15/08**  
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**COUNTY COUNCIL APPOINTS ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

*Goal is to conserve energy, preserve the environment, conserve tax dollars*

The week before Earth Day, Delaware County Council is going green by forming an Energy and Environmental Advisory Board. The eight-member board will make recommendations to Council on actions that will foster a cleaner, greener county, now and for generations to come.

In an effort to conserve energy, create a cleaner environment and save taxpayer dollars, Delaware County Council announced the formation of the Energy and Environmental Advisory Board at its April 15 meeting.

The Board will advise Council on the protection of the environment, conservation, management and use of natural resources. Board members will also assist Council in developing an Energy Conservation Plan Element that will be included in the County's Comprehensive Plan.

"Energy conservation is a global issue, but County Council believes that these issues need to be addressed at the local level. Every action taken adds up to a healthier, sustainable environment," said Council member Christine Fizzano Cannon. "This Advisory Board will complement existing county programs that already improve the environment including our open space initiative, revitalization of our older towns, recycling programs, supporting public transit and protecting our watersheds."

"And, if we conserve energy, we will also be conserving tax dollars," Fizzano Cannon said.

Council announced its new Energy and Environmental Advisory Board during National Environmental Education Week, held April 13-19 in advance of Earth Day on April 22. One of the major themes of Earth Day has been to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."

Formation of the Board is the first step in establishing an overall plan for energy efficiency at the county level. The Advisory Board will be asked to make recommendations regarding such topics as:

- Clean energy initiatives such as wind and solar power
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Energy efficiency for operations and facilities
- Clean air initiatives
- Transportation initiatives such as hybrid vehicle use, idling reduction and reduction in fuel consumption.
- Land use such as open space preservation, trail and bikeway creation, watershed protection.

*(more)*

*(Energy/Environmental Advisory Board continued)*

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD:** Members of the Advisory Board are: Peter Alyanakian, a Media Borough councilman who is at the forefront of Media's energy conservation efforts; Lorraine Bradshaw, Middletown architect, councilwoman and member of the Delaware Valley Green Building Council; Ralph Brown, Regional External Affairs Manager for PECO; Sue Cordes, Recycling and Hazardous Waste Coordinator for Delaware County Solid Waste Authority; Joe Salvucci, executive director of the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DELCORA); Joe Solomon, president of Provident Energy Consulting; Bruce Thomas, Energy Manager for Delaware County government; and Peter Williamson, Vice President of Conservation Services at Natural Lands Trust Inc.

"Delaware County is one of the first counties in the Commonwealth to incorporate an Energy Conservation Plan Element in its Comprehensive Plan as detailed in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code," Mrs. Fizzano Cannon said.

"We want a purposeful plan that will ensure that Delaware County will have a healthy, safe environment for generations to come," Mrs. Fizzano Cannon said. "We want to be sure that we operate our buildings in the most energy-efficient manner. There are so many small proactive steps that add up, from turning off the lights and computers to conserving landfill space and encouraging carpooling."

The Advisory Board will also be asked to seek input from members of the public on energy and environmental policies.

"It's important that we move toward energy independence," Mrs. Fizzano Cannon said. "Delaware County is committed to using less energy through better technology to light and heat our buildings and power our facilities. Lowering our energy costs also enables us to invest more in our communities. It's a win-win situation."

In addition, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has announced plans to compile a greenhouse gases inventory for nine counties, including Delaware County.

Planning Director John Pickett said the state Planning Code details the Energy Conservation Plan Element as follows:

"To promote energy conservation and the effective utilization of renewable energy sources, the comprehensive plan may include an energy conservation plan element which systematically analyzes the impact of each other component and element of the comprehensive plan on the present and future use of energy in the municipality (ie. Delaware County), details specific measures contained in the other plan elements designed to reduce energy consumption, and proposes other measures that the municipality may take to reduce energy consumption and to promote the effective utilization of renewable energy sources."

Council Vice-Chairman Jack Whelan introduced members of the Energy and Environmental Advisory Board at the April 15 Council meeting. He said the Advisory Board will make recommendations to Council regarding environmental policy decision, educate the public on natural resource protection and other environmental issues, and aid in the coordination of activities to improve the county's environment.

"While the Advisory Board members represent diverse backgrounds, they share a commitment to providing a sustainable future. With the appointment of these individuals, the County has a great opportunity to be an environmental leader and to fulfill its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our residents," Whelan said.